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False leaks laid to spy panel

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Washington — The White House yesterday accused the House Select Committee on Intelligence of "inaccurate and distorted" news leaks and expressed concern about the impending release of a report said to be critical of the role played in espionage operations by Henry A. Kissinger, the Secretary of State.

Ronald H. Nessen, the press secretary, made clear the White House feeling that the intelligence panel headed by Representative Otis G. Pike (D., N.Y.), had not lived up to its agreement to clear classified material with President Ford before making such information public.

"The President views with the most serious concern the leak of this alleged report," Mr. Nessen said when asked about news stories disclosing that the forthcoming final report of the House committee portrayed Mr. Kissinger as personally insisting that the Central Intelligence Agency set up covert operations in Angola, Chile, Italy and Iraq.

The press secretary refused to comment on the allegations involving Mr. Kissinger, but he did flatly deny a report that the United States government knew and had concealed the identity of those who killed Nathaniel Davis, the former U.S. ambassador to Cyprus.

The White House is known to regard as the most serious aspect of its latest clash with the House intelligence committee the failure of the arrangement worked out whereby the congressional group checked with the President before releasing secret information given to them.

Under the terms of that agreement, if presidential approval was not given, then a court order had to be obtained for the documents to be made public.

From the White House standpoint, the problems of leaks from the Pike committee

underline the difficulty of setting up a mechanism whereby secrets can be shared with Congress and yet protected from disclosure.

Private meetings have been held between Mr. Ford and the congressional leadership, which is said to be aware of the sensitivity of the difficulty facing them.

There was a split within the House committee on whether the final report was subject to the terms of the agreement with the White House, but it was expected that the findings would be made public.

Meantime, the generally more discreet Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities became embroiled in disagreement between its chairman, Senator Frank Church (D., Idaho), and its vice chairman, Senator John G. Tower (R., Texas), over Mr. Church's proposal to set up a new Senate oversight committee requiring prior notification

of covert operations. The committee would also be authorized to disclose such matters.

Mr. Tower contended it would be premature to set up such a body.

Report says Nixon gave Iraq covert aid

Washington (AP) — The House intelligence committee's draft report alleges that President Nixon took steps to keep covert aid for Kurdish rebels in Iraq secret from the State Department, even having his treasury secretary, John B. Connally, rather than diplomats, deliver word the aid had been approved, a committee source said yesterday.

The report says the U.S. aid for Kurdish rebels was supplied at the request of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi of Iran and that Mr. Nixon had Mr. Connally deliver the word to the shah that the aid had been approved.